



Effective Health Care Topics for methodological AHRQ reports Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- *Topics for methodological AHRQ reports* does not fit within the domain of the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program because the topic does not address a specific therapeutic or diagnostic intervention. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - Suggestions for methods-related AHRQ reports should be directed to AHRQ's Scientific Resource Center (methods@epc-src.org).

Topic Description

Nominator(s): The Evidence- Based Medicine Center of Excellence

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in furthering systematic review methods research in the following areas:

- Examining the robustness of the using GRADE to classify the evidence as high, moderate, or low.
- Machine learning methods for screening of the retrieved studies (comparative efficiency of various methods).
- Machine learning methods for new evidence surveillance.
- Network meta-analyses of comparative effectiveness and safety with heterogeneity evaluation and ranking the quality of evidence.
- Methods of imputing missing data in quantitative analyses.
- Quantification of the value of the information for judging benefits and harms and for determining future research needs.
- Valid methods for expert consensus development in cases of low or insufficient evidence (e.g. formalization and quantification of Delphi or other consensus approaches).
- Validating the rapid review vs. systematic review and understanding the level of bias introduced with this alternative methodological approach.

Considerations

- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), through its Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs), sponsors the development of systematic reviews to assist public- and private-sector organizations in their efforts to improve the quality of health care in the United States. These reviews

focus attention on the evidence from research studies about the effectiveness and safety of a clinical intervention.

- The topic does not meet EHC Program appropriateness criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)